

2006 ELECTION

I SCHOOL BOARD NO DEPT SCH DIST RES (3)



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Hello Voter,

For my second term as a Board of Education Member, my priorities would be:

Restore safety and discipline in our schools. As Chairperson of the BOE's Ad Hoc Committee on Safety, I have focused on safety problems such as bullying. We now need to move the DOE forward into making the needed changes in our policies, rules and laws.

Most agree that a zero tolerance policy for guns and violence alone is not enough. The focus must be primarily on prevention. Therefore, I will advocate mandatory reporting and appropriate sharing of information. We must then send students to counseling, anger management programs, etc. or the police, as appropriate. The teachers and staff who report and appropriately share this information must be protected from reprisals through qualified immunity and be provided legal representation.

Refocus on equal educational opportunity rather than on the unrealistic ideal of absolute equity funding (which Act 51 is premised upon). Act 51 has had too many unintended consequences, such as eliminating teachers, librarians and programs in the arts, humanities and athletics. This was in the name of absolute equity funding, which was never really a problem in Hawaii but instead a mainland problem because of their unequal tax base.

Having the teacher's time primarily spent on teaching and interacting with the children, rather than filling out bureaucratic forms and teaching to/for the standardized tests. The federal laws unnecessarily require that and must be changed.